

Highland Park Strings

MADE IN AMERICA

A SEASON OF AMERICAN MUSIC ★ 44TH SEASON

Dr. Robert G. Hasty, Conductor
Free Community Concerts

2022-2023



MADE IN AMERICA

A SEASON OF AMERICAN MUSIC

OUR 44TH SEASON FOUR COMMUNITY CONCERTS SUNDAYS AT 3:00 PM

As we prepare to embark on our 44th Season, the mission of the Strings remains the same—to provide community concerts free of charge where families, friends, and north shore neighbors can gather for an afternoon of musical enjoyment at the highest level. We recall with pride the 432 different works (!) we have performed including those by 122 composers whose lifetimes span more than 300 years. As we say on our website: "Continually reinventing itself is what keeps the Highland Park Strings new and exciting each season." Consistent with that, this season we will be performing music exclusively by American composers! ... and what a treasure trove it is! We also wish to dedicate the season to the victims of the horrific July 4 shooting. As the truism goes, music steps in where words fail.

Our opening concert on October 16 will feature the brilliant young violinist **MASHA LAKISOVA**. Currently a student of Miriam Fried at the New England Conservatory, MASHA returns for her third appearance with the Strings performing the only Violin Concerto of Samuel Barber written in 1939. The Season begins, appropriately, with Morton Gould's "American Salute" and will also include the rarely heard Symphony No. 1 by Florence Price. Price became the first black female composer to have a symphony performed by a major American orchestra when the Chicago Symphony played the world premiere in 1933, during Chicago's Century of Progress Exposition.

For our "Holiday" Concert on December 4 (devoted to all repertoire for string orchestra), we will be joined by clarinetist **ANDY HUDSON** in the Concerto for Clarinet and Strings by Aaron Copland, commissioned and first performed by Benny Goodman. Currently on the faculty at the University of North Carolina, ANDY earned his DMA in Clarinet Performance from Northwestern where he also secured his M.M. The Strings will add music of Roger Zare, Samuel Barber, and Augusta Reed Thomas, as well as the delightful Serenade by Victor Herbert.

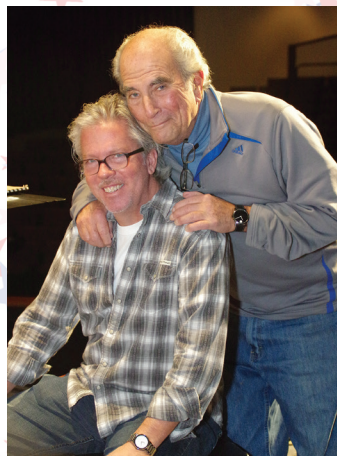
Our Gala Benefit Concert in the acoustically perfect Bennett-Gordon Hall at Ravinia on February 19, features pianist **WINSTON CHOI**, Associate Professor of Piano and the Head of the Piano Program at Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts, who will perform Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue". Also on the program will be Copland's "Lincoln Portrait", the Concerto Grosso of Ernest Bloch and Selections from West Side Story by Leonard Bernstein.

The final concert on May 16 will present cellist **ALEXANDER HERSH**, raised in Chicago, who has quickly established himself as one of the most exciting and creative talents of his generation. ALEX will perform the marvelous, but rarely performed, Concerto No. 2 by Victor Herbert. The Strings will add the Lyric for Strings by George Walker, the Symphony No. 3 of Charles Ives and Dance Episodes from "Rodeo" by Copland.

We look forward to your continued support. On behalf of the Strings, I am deeply grateful.



Lawrence Block
Founder and General Manager



"Congratulations and thank you to Larry Block and the incredibly talented members of the Highland Park Strings! May they continue to provide a cultural focal point for our city and beyond."

– Nancy Rotering
Mayor of Highland Park



Dr. Robert G. Hasty, Conductor

Dr. Hasty begins his sixth full year as Conductor of the Strings, having become beloved by the orchestra and the audience. Dr. Hasty is the conductor of the Chamber Orchestra and the Philharmonia of the Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music at Northwestern University where he also serves as the Associate Director of Orchestras . He is also the Music Director of the Kenosha and the Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestras and Artistic Director of the International Schools Choral Music Society. Dr. Hasty began his career teaching music in the public schools in Southern California. A noted researcher in music cognition, Dr. Hasty is the author of two publications delivered at the 7th International Conference on Music Perception and Cognition in Sydney, Australia. As a conductor, Dr. Hasty has appeared with the All-American College Orchestra at Walt Disney World, Beijing Youth Orchestra, and the Elmhurst and Grant Park Symphonies, among many others. He also continues to perform as a freelance violinist and violist. These days, you will find him fiddling in several Chicagoland clubs and venues with various local bands, most notably performing and recording with his wife, singer-songwriter Christina Trullio.



The Highland Park Strings, 1979-1980 Season

"The Highland Park Strings is loved as much as it was...when a group of musicians first played classical string music for the community."

– Hilary Anderson,
Highland Park Landmark

"Many many thanks to ...the Strings for all the years of truly wonderful concerts. The Strings are a real gem and true asset to the area. Every single concert has always been...of downtown caliber."

– Philip Bechen

OCTOBER 16

AMERICAN SALUTE

3pm | Free Admission | Highland Park High School | 433 Vine Avenue

MORTON GOULD

American Salute

SAMUEL BARBER

Concerto for Violin, Op. 14

Masha Lakisova, Violin

FLORENCE PRICE

Symphony No. 1 in E minor

Chicago-based violinist **MASHA LAKISOVA**, who first appeared with the Strings in 2015, has now become one of the rising stars of her generation. Currently pursuing her bachelor's degree at the New England Conservatory with Miriam Fried, Masha has taken top prizes at the Stulberg, Klein, and Tibor Junior International Competitions, and has appeared with orchestras worldwide. She has also performed in esteemed concert venues including Carnegie Hall's Weill Hall, Ravinia's Bennett-Gordon Hall, and Alice Tully Hall. Masha graduated from Juilliard Pre-College in 2020 as a student of Itzhak Perlman and has had masterclasses with many other prominent artists including Anne Sophie Mutter and Pinchas Zukerman. Developing a passion for chamber music at an early age, her string Quartets have won Gold Medals at the Fischhoff International Chamber Music Competition and top prizes at numerous other competitions. Masha has spent her summers studying and performing at various music festivals including this past summer at the Ravinia Steans Music Institute and the Perlman Music Program Chamber Music Workshop. Masha has the use of a violin by G.F. Pressenda, Turin, 1845, on loan from the Stradivari Society of Chicago thanks to her patron, Edward Manzo. In addition to "American Salute", the Strings will perform the Symphony No. 1 of Florence Price, the first African-American female composer to have a symphony played by a major American orchestra (The CSO in 1933).



"Ms. Lakisova is one of the most brilliant, communicative, and intelligent young musicians I have had the pleasure of hearing...She possesses a wonderful natural stage presence, musical maturity well beyond her young age, and a virtuoso command of her instrument..."

– Vadim Gluzman. Violinist, Stradivari Society Artistic Advisor

"Masha ... is a rarity, a true artist destined for great things."

– Christopher O'Riley, 'Host, NPR's "From the Top"

DECEMBER 4 HOLIDAY CONCERT

3pm | Free Admission | Highland Park High School | 433 Vine Avenue

ROGER ZARE

Bolt From The Blue

SAMUEL BARBER

Adagio for Strings

AARON COPLAND

Concerto for Clarinet and Strings

Andrew Hudson, Clarinet

AUGUSTA REED THOMAS

Of Paradise and Light

VICTOR HERBERT

Serenade for Strings in F Major, Op. 12

ANDY HUDSON earned his DMA in Clarinet Performance with a Cognate Certification in Music Theory from Northwestern University, where he also earned his Master of Music degree. Andy is currently Assistant Professor of Clarinet at the University of North Carolina and each summer joins the Artist-Faculty of the Tennessee Valley Music Festival. Previously, he held teaching positions at Northwestern and Lake Forest College. He has appeared in Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, at Chicago's Symphony Center and as soloist at the Midwest Clinic. The winner of many competitions, Andy has recently performed as guest principal clarinet of the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra and has performed with the Chicago Symphony on their MusicNow series. Andy's first book, "Elements of Contemporary Clarinet Technique" was co-authored with Roger Zare whose "Bolt From The Blue" will be heard on this concert. Andy will play the Concerto for Clarinet and Strings by Aaron Copland, commissioned and first performed by jazz clarinetist Benny Goodman in 1949. The Strings will add music of Samuel Barber and Augusta Reed Thomas, and the Serenade by Victor Herbert.



Performances by Andy Hudson have been hailed as "a treat for the listener" (IAWM Journal) and have been praised for an "uncommon singularity of purpose, technical virtuosity, youthful vigor and a mature sensitivity." (The Clarinet).

FEBRUARY 19 ANNUAL BENEFIT GALA RAVINIA CONCERT

3pm | \$40 General Admission | Bennett-Gordon Hall, Ravinia
Call 847.831.3622 for tickets

ERNEST BLOCH

Concerto Grosso No. 1

AARON COPLAND

Lincoln Portrait

GEORGE GERSHWIN

Rhapsody in Blue

Winston Choi, Piano

LEONARD BERNSTEIN

West Side Story Selections

The Strings' Annual Benefit concert in the intimate and acoustically perfect Bennett-Gordon Hall at Ravinia is the highlight of the season. Canadian pianist **WINSTON CHOI** makes his debut with the Strings in the performance of the iconic "Rhapsody in Blue". Choi is Associate Professor of Piano and the Head of the Piano Program at Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts. After obtaining his Bachelor and Masters of Music from Indiana University and his DMA from Northwestern, his professional career was launched when he was named Laureate of the 2003 Honens Piano Competition and winner of France's Concours International de Piano in 2002. An inquisitive performer, his fresh approach to standard repertoire, and masterful understanding, performance and commitment to works by living composers make him one of today's most

dynamic young concert artists. As a dedicated champion of contemporary music, Choi has premiered and commissioned over 100 works by young composers as well as established masters. In demand as a concerto soloist, Choi has appeared with over a dozen symphony orchestras and is a prolific recording artist. Also on the program is the "Concerto Grosso" for strings and piano by Ernest Bloch, Selections from "West Side Story" by Leonard Bernstein and the "Lincoln Portrait" by Aaron Copland using a narrator to recite material from speeches and letters of Lincoln – a perfect way to celebrate Presidents' Day.



Bonus for Major Contributors

Show how important Strings concerts are to you and the community by making a contribution of \$100 or more. The Strings is exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code Section 501 (c) (3). You will receive a minimum of two tickets, preferred seating, listing in the Program Book, and free tickets to a Donor Appreciation Chamber Music Concert at 3pm on Sunday, April 16, at the Highland Park Community House.

MAY 21

HERBERT CELLO CONCERTO

3pm | Free Admission | Highland Park High School | 433 Vine Avenue

GEORGE WALKER

Lyric for Strings

VICTOR HERBERT

Concerto for Cello No. 2 in E minor, Op. 30

Alexander Hersh, Cello

CHARLES IVES

Symphony No. 3 ("The Camp Meeting")

AARON COPLAND

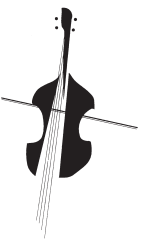
Dance Episodes from Rodeo

Having already performed as soloist with the Houston Symphony and the Boston Pops, **ALEXANDER HERSH** has quickly established himself as one of the most exciting and creative talents of his generation. He has received top prizes at competitions worldwide including the 2022 Pro Musicis International Award (entitling him to a recital at Carnegie Hall), Salon de Virtuosi Career Grant, New York International Artists Association Competition, and the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, among many others. A passionate chamber musician, Alex has performed at music festivals worldwide including Marlboro and Ravinia. Raised in Chicago, Alex began playing the cello at age 5. He received his B.M. and M.M from the New England Conservatory. Later he was recipient of the Frank Huntington Beebe fund for studies in Berlin where he studied at the Hanns Eisler Hochschule for Music. His teachers have included Laurence Lesser, Hans Jorgen Jensen, Kim Kashkashian and Paul Katz. He serves as co-Artistic Director of NEXUS Chamber Music, an artist driven collective of musicians whose mission is to make classical music culturally relevant through live concerts and multimedia content. He plays a G.B. Rogeri cello, courtesy of Guarneri Hall NFP and Darnton & Hersh Fine Violins. Alex will play the marvelous, but often neglected, Concerto No. 2 by Victor Herbert and the Strings will add works by African-American composer George Walker, Charles Ives and Aaron Copland.



"Dear Larry—How ever do you find these young artists that are so very special...H.P. Strings is such a gift for our community."

– Rhoda K. Levine



Highland Park Strings

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Highland Park Strings

44th Season | 2022-2023 | Dr. Robert G. Hasty, Conductor

October 16 – American Salute | Highland Park High School

December 4 – Holiday Concert | Highland Park High School

February 19 (Benefit) – Gala Ravinia Concert | Bennett-Gordon Hall, Ravinia

May 21– Herbert Cello Concerto | Highland Park High School

Call 847.831.3622 | Visit hpstrings.org